

REMARKS

Applicants confirm the oral election with traverse of Group I (claims 1-12). The two groups are related as a product and process of making. The restriction requirement has been justified on the grounds that the product can be made by coating the shrinkage-reducing layer and first ceramic layer on the second ceramic layer and/or forming the opening in the first layer after coating or stacking. However, the main method claims call for providing the first and second ceramic green sheets having the recited orientation. Further, claim 20 is in product by process format. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the distinction is not valid. Further, when the entire search area is set forth, rather than only the primary subclass, it is believed that the search will be coextensive. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

The indication that claims 6-10 and 12 would be allowable in independent form has been noted with appreciation. Claim 6 has been placed in independent form and it is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 6-10 can now be allowed. The dependent form of claim 12 has been retained.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the shrinkage-reducing layer is only at the periphery of the exposed bottom surface of the cavity rather than the entire exposed bottom surface of that cavity. This is shown, *inter alia*, in the drawings of the application. In light of this change, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Mandai can be withdrawn. By positioning the shrinkage-reducing layer of the present invention at the periphery of the bottom of the cavity, and not the entire bottom surface of the cavity, it serves to reduce shrinkage stress produced at the corner of the cavity. There is no teaching or suggestion in Mandai of positioning a shrinkage-reducing layer in this manner. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

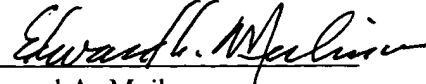
Application No.: 10/001,316

Docket No.: M1071.1485/P1485

In light of all of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition to be allowed and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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